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News Release

Mississippi Hospitals

Receive New Trauma Center Designations

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Today, Mississippi State Health Officer Brian Amy, MD, MHA, MPH, announced great news for Mississippi's Trauma Care System: five Mississippi hospitals are the state's latest complete designated Level I, III and IV Trauma Centers.

Dr. Amy designated one hospital as a complete Level I Trauma Center, designated two hospitals as complete Level III Trauma Centers and designated two other hospitals as complete Level IV Trauma Centers.

Mississippi's newest designated complete trauma centers include: University Medical Center (Hinds County), Complete Designation as a Level I trauma center; Ocean Springs Hospital (Jackson County), Complete Designation as a Level II trauma center; South Central Regional Medical Center (Jones County), Complete Designation as a Level III trauma center; L.O. Crosby Memorial Hospital (Pearl River County), Complete Designation as a Level IV trauma center; and Wayne General Hospital (Wayne County), Complete Designation as Level IV trauma center.

The facilities received complete designation as Level I, III and IV Trauma Centers from the Mississippi State Department of Health. These designations take effect today and follow recommendations by a survey team of health professionals and are based on a standardized established criteria for trauma centers.

In the past, the Mississippi State Department of Health gave recognition to hospitals throughout the state that have met the Trauma Care System's definition of a provisionally designated Level I, III and IV trauma care center. These facilities were provisionally designated as a Level I, III or IV trauma center, but subsequently strengthened areas of their programs that were identified in their previous inspection reports.

An inspection team reviewed the facilities and recommended complete designation; the Mississippi Trauma Advisory Committee concurred, and State Health Officer Dr. Amy designated the facilities.

Involvement by hospitals in the Trauma Care System is on a voluntary basis. As part of the statewide network of trauma care centers, these hospitals may accept, stabilize and care for trauma patients with significant injuries.

Under Mississippi law, hospitals can seek designation as a Level I, II, III or IV trauma center, with Level I requiring the most resources. The designations set specific criteria and standards of care that guide hospital and emergency personnel in determining the level of care a trauma victim needs and whether that hospital has the resources to care for the patient or whether the patient should be transferred to a trauma center that is more appropriate for the patients' injuries. – *more – Trauma Center Designations – Add 1*

"Out-of-state trauma professionals inspected each hospital to critique the type of care delivered to trauma patients, how that care is delivered and what the hospital could do to improve its delivery," said Department of Health Emergency Planning and Response Director Jim Craig. "This Trauma System is an excellent mechanism that we can use to deliver a trauma patient to the most appropriate facility in the appropriate amount of time to receive appropriate treatment."

To qualify as a Level I trauma center, facilities must have a full range of trauma capabilities, including an emergency department, a full-service surgical suite, intensive care unit, and diagnostic imaging. Level I centers must have a residency program, ongoing research, and provide 24-hour trauma service in their facility. These hospitals provide a variety of other services to comprehensively care for both trauma patients, as well as medical patients.

To be considered a Level II trauma center, facilities must be able to provide initial care to the severely injured patient. These facilities must have a full range of trauma capabilities, including an emergency department, a full service surgical suite, intensive care unit, and diagnostic imaging. For specialty care a patient may be transferred to a Level I trauma center.

To qualify as a Level IV trauma center, facilities must provide initial evaluation and assessment of injured patients. Most patients will require transfer to facilities with more resources dedicated to providing optimal care for the injured patient."

Traumatic injuries are a major public health problem in Mississippi, claiming more than 2,000 people's lives and disabling nearly 6,000 each year; that results in more than 50,000 years of potential life lost in the state alone.

"The Health Department's goal is to be sure that everyone in Mississippi has an organized system of trauma care that offers them excellent patient care and the best possible recovery," said Craig. "The Mississippi State Department of Health's Office of Emergency Planning and Response program continues to work on the development of the statewide trauma care system. They also provide technical assistance to hospitals as they go through the process of developing a trauma center."

Survey teams evaluate administration, emergency department, clinical laboratory, patient transfer agreements, pre-hospital services, quality improvement programs, and radiology services. Additionally, they look for the hospitals' commitment to community outreach, particularly for prevention. For more information on the

Mississippi Department of Health's Emergency Planning and Response program, the public can visit www.mstrauma.org.